

TELEPHONY SPECIFICATION AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT

The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and The US Department of Energy (DOE) are pleased to announce the availability of the new ENERGY STAR[®] specification for telephony products, available on the Internet at www.energystar.gov. The specification provides guidelines for manufacturing a product that meets ENERGY STAR's energy efficiency criteria.

The ENERGY STAR label is used to identify products, homes, and buildings that meet or exceed ENERGY STAR guidelines. The label offers manufacturers the opportunity to differentiate their products and showcase superior product design. ENERGY STAR labeled telephony products also meet the preferences of many consumers for environmentally friendly products with lower lifetime operating costs. Telephony product manufacturers interested in participating may join ENERGY STAR by signing a voluntary Partnership Agreement with EPA.

If all cordless telephones, answering machines, and combination units projected to be sold in the United States in 2000 met ENERGY STAR specifications, over 1.5 trillion Watt-hours (TWh) could be saved annually. This would save consumers \$98 million per year on their utility bills and prevent emissions of approximately a quarter of a million metric tons of carbon from being released into the atmosphere, which is equivalent to removing 99 cars from United States roads annually.

To comment on the specification, e-mail Craig Hershberg, ENERGY STAR Product Manager, US Environmental Protection Agency, at hershberg.craig@epa.gov. For more information, call the ENERGY STAR Hotline toll free at 1-888-STAR-YES (1-888-782-7937).